

Def. Coc. 1114

TALK OF FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN ON BOMBINGS
OF NANKING AND CANTON. (September 27 1937)

We have not received detailed official information such as the report spread elsewhere regarding the result of the bombing. The Reuter report from Canton is especially exaggerated due to the fact that its correspondent at Canton is a Chinese, named Liang,--a fact which will explain the utter unreliability of the report. (The London Reuter of very recent date has corrected the false reports). Even if the facts are not so sensational as reported, it is absolutely impossible that the Japanese forces make non-combatants the objectives of their attacks. That was the very reason the Japanese had given a previous notice concerning their bombing. This was given in order to prevent any untoward misfortunes befalling foreign diplomats at Nanking; and simultaneously, with this notice, Vice-Admiral Hasegawa, Commander in Chief of the Third Fleet, warned Chinese citizens of Nanking, urging them to keep away from the military works and establishments which would be made the objectives of the Japanese attack.

In both Nanking and Canton, Chinese military establishments,--in other words, buildings and other kinds of establishments which are employed for military purposes, are not segregated from the residential and business districts of the citizens in general. This fact is not clearly understood by foreigners, some of whom seem to believe that

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all military establishments are outside the city proper, and that the Japanese forces are deliberately making non combatants their objectives--thus making unreasonable criticisms against the Japanese forces. We cannot but urge the authorities of Nanking and Canton to give advance notice to their citizens, who live in and around those military establishments that are likely to be directly damaged by bombs, to seek safety in areas other than the fighting zone.

Nothing has been settled concerning the law regarding aerial combat. Regarding this, we cannot help recollecting that, in 1922 when the conference having to do with the law concerning aerial combats was held at the Hague, Japan, the United States, Italy and several other countries insisted that the objects of bombardment should be limited and concretely enumerated, while both England and France emphasized that all that could be accepted as military establishments might well be bombed.

Moreover, according to the latest informations, the rate of successful hits of Japanese air raids upon Canton was high; and the military establishments, e.g., the PaiOyun Aerodrome, Tien-ho Aerodrome, Tseng-pu powder-magazine, Tsung-hua Aerodrome, Hu-men Aerodrome, the First Ammunition Factory, Shih-ching Arsenal, Cha-tou Smokeless Powder Factory, Military Academy--were bombed; and the alleged report (by Reuter) that a large number of non-combatants were killed and wounded was found to be entirely a Chinese fabrication.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I KAYASHI, Naue, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in English consisting of 3 pages and entitled "Talk of Foreign Office Spokesman on Bombings of Nanking and Canton, September 27, 1937." is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,

on this 8th day of April 1947.

/S/ K. Hayashi
Signature of Official

Witness: /S/ K. Urabe

第三、南京廣貿銀行ニ門スル信託無事讐

(西暦十二年九月二十七日一) へ管外入港者見一

日本政府ニオイテハ軍ヘラレル如キ樂事ノ結果ニツキ充分ノ軍需ニ供シテ半
ナイト、日貢ノ「ロイテル」は自ハ最強之強的テアルガ、同地ノ如相貿ハ支那
人謀共テアルカヲ以セ信ヲオキ如不善質ノ間相ハ軍ヘラレル事半「セントゼー
シヨナル」ナル事ノテナイト恩クガ、英屬工員ヲ攻撃ノ目標トスルヨトハ此
はニ即時テハナリ、日本ハ英國工員ヲ目標トシテ攻撃スル力滿ヤコトハ既ジ
テナイソレ故ニ如ノニ先ダツテ報復シ久次第テアル卽テ南京ニオケル各國外
交官ニ對シテハ露一ノ不順ノ災害ガナイヤウシメ急切ニ知悉シ別ニ二十日受
名川司令官ハ支那人ニ對シ我ラ攻撃ノ目標ナル軍事施設附近ヲリ巡査スルヤ
ウニ一般警告ヲシタ殊ニ南京廣貿易市ニオイテハ軍事施設及軍需關係之遺
失、損害スレバ敵誰ヲ有スル如敷勦及ヒ施設ガ一般市民ヤ洋服者下級士卒
サレタ地域ニナクソレ等ト混在シテキルコトアル、某國ノ如キハコノ事ノ
認識ガ十分アナク至ル施設ハスベテ市内ノ外ニアルモノノ如ク誤解シテ后リ

コレガタメ市中ノ奸馬ハ憲憲ニ取扱日持トスルハアルト候事シ、且
奉賀ヲ申シテキノハ矣賞ノ御内トハネバナラヌ、故ニ西京、同及新右衛
門官局ニ對シテハ、トノダメ同様ニ候客ヲ求ルベキシアル地盤ニ屬在マタハ
信濃スル市民ニ對シテハ、誠メ安金耳等ニ通じセシマルコトニツイテ候魚ナキヲ
要致セサルヲ尋ヌ、無段落藝ニ門シテ即立セレタモノノナイコトハ一九二二年
「ヘーベー」ノ紙旗候事體ノ際目、本、伊等ガ經常ノ目的物ヲ具体的ニ開列シ
スペキコトヲ主張シタノニ對シ、カヨソ軍用目的物トシメ得ルモノハスペテコ
レヲ全般スベシト強調シダノハ英語同様テマツタイヤセツラ想透セサルヲ得ナ
イ、ナホ最近入手シタ信號ニヨリバ日本空氣ノ尚真空氣石中華ハ正經テ事事萬
世ニ的中シ居リ「ロイテル」等ノ初メ級シタル如ク非我同員多數ニ元物看ツ居
シタ事實ハナカツタ候事アム。